

Public Safety Building Committee – Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday September 3, 2020

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: City Webex

Chairs Statement: This meeting is not being recorded, videotaped and broadcasted. If any other persons present are recording, videotaping or broadcasting this meeting you must notify the chairperson at this time.

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Prior meeting minutes approval
4. Fire station permanent site location discussion
5. Temporary fire station discussion
6. Sub-committee meeting schedule
7. OPM presentation for budget request / additional project funding
8. Bi-monthly committee meeting schedule
9. Old Business
10. Public Comment
11. Executive Session
12. Next meeting TBA
13. Adjournment

Meeting Called to order at 1800hrs.

Jayden Grazick of 88 Hope St. notified chair of recording the meeting.

Roll Call of Members Present: Chair Person Hawkins, Clerk McIver, Mayor, Robert Strahan, McMahan, Steve Drakulich, Jen Stromsten, David Singer, Jean Wall, Carole Collins, Liz Gilman, David Moscaritolo, Marlo Warner, Ed Jarvis

OPM Joyce and members from Pacheco Ross also present.

Motion by Bob Strahan 2nd by David Singer to accept minutes for August 26th, 2020 meeting.

Discussion: Mayor suggests various edits to minutes: Ellen Boyer title change, wording change for Ed Jarvis recuse, "Coexisting", and until not will.

Friendly amendment offered by Bob Strahan to accept minutes as amended. 2nd by David M. Motion Carries Unanimously

Motion by Bob Strahan 2nd by Herb Forgey to move out of order of agenda to allow the Mayor and OPM Joyce to address committee.

Mayor explains some background of the presentation that Neil will present.

Ed Jarvis recuses himself on discussion and updates committee that in accordance with ruling of the state ethics board he cannot offer update to the council until his conflict of committee is resolved. Committee Clerk will update council as needed.

Neil Joyce presents slide show update. Highlights:

- Project no only FD due to financial restrictions, Police department phasing estimated at 2030+
- Money from state unavailable
- Berkshire Gas- no increase in terms over existing load
- No action from Wells/Main owner on offer presented
- Will need temp FD location and to request additional funds
- Main/Coombs vs Wells Only for top two viable sites
- Temp Station proposed Hope/Olive Parking Lot: Possible schedule laid out beginning near future and moving to temp potentially by mid-summer 2021
- At the end of the temporary location use, Hope Lot would have to be restored back to previous status.
- Wells and Coombs Lot options explained. Drawings are solely to show that site can fit on site.
- Mayor explains that CDBG fund opportunities and potential of funds for both sites.
- Financials explained for all site options, estimated completion of 2-3rd quarter of 2023
- Advised that market is super volatile and unpredictable.

Chair opens discussion regarding temp location.

Jean Wall asks about the structure of this committee because she does not feel well enough informed and asks about involvement outside of committee meetings.

Chair states that these things have been done to try to expedite the discussions.

Chief Strahan explains that this site (Hope) was suggested and had Dennis and Neil try to see if it was an option, was not trying to force one site.

Mayor reviews history of the committee and explains all of the steps over the past several months of committee actions.

Chair explains how this committees scheduling, format was done backwards in a traditional sense but doing best to overcome and move forward.

Chief Strahan stresses that transparency is key.

Jean – Not criticizing how things have been done, however things have been done differently in this committee and there are great people in this committee urges for all to be able to help.

Mayor – This is not the normal but there is a lot of goals and work to be done and this project is just beginning.

David M – Need to make every meeting we have to be productive so we can make timelines. Lots of work to do, suggests setting weekly goals to keep focused.

Jarvis speaks about hoping the committee can use the information already gathered on previous sites and not rehash already looked at sites.

Forgey – spent quite a bit of time on temp locations already and believes there is no other options.

Singer – shares Jeans feelings and asks about permanent site discussions. Prefers Coombs over Wells.

Singer - Motion to allow Mayor to negotiate with Coombs Ave owner for purchase 2nd by Forgey.

Discussion – Procedural inquiry by Jarvis regarding agenda order.

Singer speaks to intent of motion.

Chief Strahan – Coombs Ave. was not big enough for full PSC but will accommodate the FD. Ranking is now the top site. Loves Coombs Ave. and that it discharges to Main St. great location and would be welcoming site. Been on site many times leans on supporting site.

Mayor – Discusses status of non-response from Wells and how site of Coombs Ave could be viable option.

Dennis – Suggests that we should evaluate what other buildings at Coombs would potentially add to the site before making decisions on additional purchases there.

Forgey – What can we expect from Wells St. owner if we only buy half the site. What can we expect from our then neighbor?

David M- Opinion that Wells owner does not invest in Greenfield and Coombs is owned by an in-town family and has invested in the city. Asks about if Wells site would need additional lots, Neil and Dennis answer. Believes that Coombs has best options.

Jen S- Very in favor of Coombs site feels that it would be a great investment in the area.

Mayor/Dennis – These are just suggestions on potential site layouts to prove they'll fit we are miles from actual drawings and conceptual.

Vote held by roll call – Unanimous in Favor, Motion Carries

Motion by Chief Strahan to appoint Chair for temp subcommittee, 2nd by Singer.

Singer nominates David M 2nd by Strahan for Subcommittee Chair.

Vote by Roll Call – Unanimous in favor, Motion Carries.

David M – Suggests that we meet for temp site committee same meeting days as regular committee

Discussion regarding size of temp committee and members of the committee. Mayor reviews members with committee and advises that we need to remove some members so that we are not in violation with number of members in subcommittee (cannot be a majority of the full committee). Discussion:

David Singer and Steve D voluntarily remove themselves from committee
David M (chair), Forgey, Jean W, Carole Collins (city advisor), Jen S, Chief, McIver (non-voting)

Motion to amend by Mayor, 2nd Strahan. Roll Call Vote – Motion carries unanimously.

Steve – We have a month to make these decisions, we need to have these meetings frequently.

David M would like to hold meeting next week. Discussion of Thursday at 4pm, meeting set.

Chair – Discussion of when/how we're meeting going forward.

Singer – Asks about strategy and discussion of budget request to council, how are you going to sell it to get it done.

Mayor speaks about limits of bonding and how limited we are financially. Explains that 15 mil is all we have available to borrow.

Jarvis – Questions about finance and approach and just clarifying mayor's approach.

Mayor – Most of presentation will be for an overall picture of the project.

Singer – asks who will be speaking and if others will be allowed to speak

Mayor – would like to keep group small

Forgey – Wonders if David and Mayor could chat offline to discuss strategy to make progress with council.

Chair – Proposes regular meetings every two weeks.

Forgey – Suggests to meet every two weeks

Motion by Chief Strahan 2nd by Singer to meet 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 4 pm beginning Sept. 24th for regular meetings. Vote by Roll Call, Unanimous (Liz left meeting prior to vote marked as Absent for vote)– Motion Carries.

Discussion

Public Comment

Motion to adjourn by Mayor 2nd by Jean – Motion carries, Meeting adjourn